

AROUND THE HOUSE

HOUSING SERVICES WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

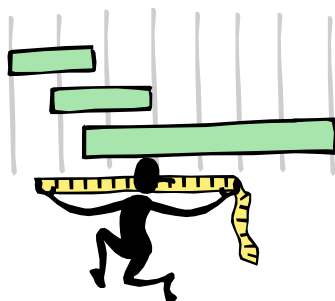


Mary K. Vaughn joined the City of Wichita Housing Services as the new Director on January 20, 2004. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, she comes to the Department with a public service career spanning almost three decades. She served as the Director of Housing for the City of Dallas, Texas where she supervised 90 employees, managed a \$20 million dollar budget and operated the homebuyer, home repair, and other neighborhood revitalization programs. She also served as the Director of Environmental and Health Services where she directed the City's homeless programs, day resource center, two community centers, several programs for senior citizens and many other community initiatives. Ms. Vaughn holds a Master's Degree from Rutgers University. She has completed advanced courses in state and local government management. Some of her special interests are facilitating staff development, implementing new initiatives and developing handbooks/manuals. An avid writer, she enjoys creating personal and inspirational essays, messages and poems. Welcome to Wichita, Mary K. Vaughn!!!

The City of Wichita Biz Loan Program

WICHITA BIZ LOAN is a new loan program developed by the City of Wichita, in partnership with INTRUST Bank, Commercial Federal Bank, Small Business Administration, South Central Kansas Economic Development District, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Wichita Technology Corporation. WICHITA BIZ LOAN is designed to provide HUD Section 108 loan funds with bank loans to create a below market interest rate loan opportunity for qualified, eligible small businesses (existing and new businesses) within the City of Wichita's Neighborhood Revitalization Areas.

Interested persons should start the process by logging on to www.wichitabizloan.com and taking the Quick Test to see if you qualify. This web site also explains the program requirements, provides the eligibility criteria and the required forms. For further information, contact the Wichita Technology Corporation by calling (316) 683-LOAN.



Milestones

HATS OFF!!

HOME Program Staff
Mark Stanberry
Charis Parks
Elda Backes

Number #1 HOME Program - State of Kansas

Continuous Service
Addison DeAllie
Accountant
30 Years

Welcome
Shereda Johnson
Customer Service
Clerk II

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

MARY K. VAUGHN



I am pleased to introduce myself to the Wichita housing community in this edition of the newsletter. My tenure as Director of the City of Wichita Housing Services Department began in January and I have been moving at a fast pace ever since. The biographical summary on the front page provides a glimpse of my professional career, and as you read through it you'll also get a glimpse of my 'heart' and 'soul'. I have worked in the social services field all of my life and would not trade it for anything! I have a passion for helping people meet their basic needs and what could be more basic than housing? My interest in coming to Wichita had a lot to do with what is already going on here. The Heart of Wichita programs were of particular interest, as well as the successful and innovative Public Housing and Section 8 programs which include Family Self Sufficiency and homeownership opportunities. The emerging and growing focus on the development of affordable housing, more homeownership options, as well as the community's broad interest in addressing the needs of the homeless population in Wichita, completed what appears to me to be a comprehensive housing program.

So as I looked at the successes already underway in Wichita, I asked myself what I could possibly do to make a difference. Here is what I came up with.

1. Where our programs are good, my goal will be to make them better. Along the way I will also 'blow our own horn' about our successes. Often being designated as a leader in the industry results in increased funding opportunities to do more!
2. Look at successful housing/neighborhood revitalization initiatives in other communities to determine how they could be modified to fit the unique qualities of the Wichita community.
3. Solicit and listen to input from everyone who has a stake in the success of housing initiatives in Wichita, and incorporate that input into the future plans and ongoing programs of this department.

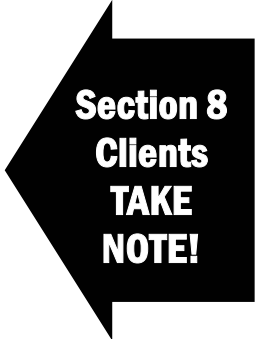
This short list is only a start. I will share more dreams and goals in future editions of Around the House. Thanks for inviting me in!!!

Attention: SECTION 8 CLIENTS**RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION 8 CLIENT REQUESTS FOR RELOCATION (MOVING) WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING YOUR ANNUAL RECERTIFICATIONS. Your Housing Leasing Specialist will be conducting your annual re-certification meeting 60-90 days prior to your re-certification date. Information collected from you and your family will be reviewed for eligible relocation activities.

If you are anticipating **MOVING** to another unit or requesting portability, please keep in mind that it takes a minimum of 45 days to process your request, including inspection of unit before relocation to another unit may occur.

All Section 8 relocation clients must be in good standing with the Housing Authority, the landlord and the unit must be in good condition.



**Section 8
Clients
TAKE
NOTE!**

LANDLORD'S 2004 HAP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Mail Date</i> |
|--------------|--------------------|
| MARCH | FEBRUARY 27, 2004 |
| APRIL | MARCH 30, 2004 |
| MAY | APRIL 30, 2004 |
| JUNE | MAY 28, 2004 |
| JULY | JUNE 29, 2004 |
| AUGUST | JULY 30, 2004 |
| SEPTEMBER | AUGUST 31, 2004 |
| OCTOBER | SEPTEMBER 28, 2004 |
| NOVEMBER | OCTOBER 29, 2004 |
| DECEMBER | NOVEMBER 30, 2004 |



**Section 8
Landlords
TAKE
NOTE!**

HOUSING SERVICES PROPOSES BUILDING EXPANSION



The Housing Services Department is considering an addition to the Administration Offices located at 332 North Riverview as seen in the above rendering. The proposed 6,000 square foot building would add 1,600 square feet for a warehouse and over 4,500 square feet of new office area. If approved, the new facility will house the Section 8 staff with Public Housing, Family Self-Sufficiency, Neighborhood Improvement Services and the HOME program. All housing programs will be under one “roof” to provide better services for our clients.

ATTENTION PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS!!

The Public Housing staff would like to express our thanks to the residents that have taken our request for property maintenance to heart. The fact that you report maintenance needs, have maintained a clean yard, and have reduced the number of inoperable vehicles in your yards has not gone unnoticed. One thing that staff is noticing is that trash carts are remaining at the curbside for a period longer than one day. Staff has also received complaints from neighbors about trash carts not being returned to the proper location next to the house in a timely manner. In order to improve the image of our residences, staff will be conducting more rigorous monitoring of this condition. Failure to take responsibility for not returning the trash carts after the trash service empties the cart could result in 14-day notices, fines or evictions. So residents please get your trash carts stored in the proper place as soon as they are emptied!

Once again, thanks to those who are making efforts and continue to show the pride that has been demonstrated by the appearance of their residence. It not only makes your home a nicer place to live for your family, but it also improves the appearance of the neighborhood resulting in a positive image of Public Housing residences.

Family Self-Sufficiency

Congratulations to **Amy Skuya** for becoming the Wichita Housing Authority's newest first time homeowner!!!

Relocating from Kearney Nebraska, Amy enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency program in 2002. While in FSS, she

worked very hard to reach her self-sufficiency goals.

All FSS participants enter into a five-year goal achievement contract, however with hard work and strong determination, Ms. Skuya completed her goals in just 19 months!!!

Amy's hard work and persistence has paid off. She is currently employed full time as an Assistant Manager for one of the local Wendy's restaurant.

Thanks Amy for proving dreams do come true!!!



News You Can Use

NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALLS TO PROVIDE FREE TAX HELP

LOW INCOME RESIDENTS CAN GET THEIR TAXES PREPARED WITHOUT CHARGE AT WICHITA'S NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALLS NOW THROUGH APRIL 15TH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL ANY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALLS, OPEN 9 A.M. TO 7 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

ATWATER - TELEPHONE - 303-8017
 EVERGREEN - TELEPHONE - 303-8042
 COLVIN - TELEPHONE - 303-8029
 STANLEY/ALEY - TELEPHONE 303-8008



HOUSING SERVICES RENTAL DROP BOX

Residents: When making your rent payments, please be sure to use the drop box and not the envelope storage box. To help us keep costs down, take only one envelope at a time and be sure to make sure your payment is properly deposited.

NEW LOOK FOR THE NEWSLETTER

WE'RE FRESHENING UP THE AROUND THE HOUSE NEWSLETTER. IN THIS EDITION WE ADDED OUR "DIRECTOR'S CHAIR" AND "MILESTONES" BY-LINES. WE WILL BE EXPANDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT AND SPOTLIGHTING FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN FUTURE EDITIONS.

Wichita Housing Services Department

332 N. Riverview

Phone: 316/268-4688
Fax: 316/268-4219



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID

Wichita, Kansas
Permit No. 923

Published by:
City of Wichita
Housing Services
Department
www.wichita.gov/housing
316/268-4688

Editor:
Deborah H. Moore

Contributors:
Tom Byler
Diane Boyd/Vallery Fields
Gail Lotson
Joe Lotson
Mary K. Vaughn
Mark Stanberry

SPRING CLEAN UP CHECKLIST

Spring is just around the corner and its time to prepare to do your spring cleaning inside and out. Here are a few tips that may help:

- Check windows, screens and doors for necessary repairs. Report problems to your property manager.
- Plant new grass in bare spots on your yard. Contact your property manager to get grass seeds.
- Be sure to test your smoke detectors by pressing the test buttons. Report any malfunctions to the work order desk at 268-4687.
- Contact your property manager for information on how to dispose of large bulky items such as old mattresses, furniture, etc.
- Clean fence lines of weeds, tree saplings, bushes etc.)

Practice safety drills with your family to be prepared in the event of power outages, fire or tornados.



We're on the Web!
www.wichita.gov/housing